

by H. de Boyer in *Archives de Neurologie*, July), considers the *délire aigu* to be a morbid entity, susceptible of precise definition. He describes, in its pathological anatomy, a lesion that he claims is almost constant, though it has not before been noticed. It consists of an injection, of variable extent, of the internal tunic of the arch of the aorta, resembling very much the effect that "would be produced by a brush, two or three centimetres thick, charged with red ink, carried from below upward for five or six centimetres from the sigmoid valves." This very marked coloration, which is sometimes accompanied with actual thickening, is strictly limited to the internal tunic of the vessel, and is independent of the atheromatous patches that may exist there, and which it sometimes envelopes. It is met with in subjects of all ages, temperate or otherwise. It is sometimes more than a simple injection; in some cases there is a genuine false membrane investing the inner wall of the aorta. According to the author this is only a more advanced stage of the pathological process. The existence of this lesion supports the view that the cause of the gravity of the disorder is to be sought for in a modification of the blood. The typhoid aspect of the patients also favors this view.

Hereditary predisposition and excesses are the causes that predominate in the etiology of the disorder, together with faulty hygienic conditions.

The cases given in illustration support the author's statements very fully. Among them is that of a well-known musical composer. Though death is the usual termination, cure may occur, and in these cases the author attributes the favorable result mainly to the disuse of all mechanical restraint and all causes of contention. He also mentions good results from the use of salicylate of soda, and tonics, and the wet pack, in the treatment of this disorder.

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GLYCOSURIA FROM STRETCHING THE VAGI.—At the session of the Soc. de Biologie, May 14 (rep. in *Le Progrès Médical*, No. 21), MM. Marcus and Wiet announced that in carrying on their researches on nerve-stretching, they had made some experiments to find out what results followed the elongation of the pneumogastrics.

In the first rabbit experimented upon they operated by stretching the right pneumogastric on its central portion. The animal, who could not be examined, died three days after the operation. The autopsy presented all the signs of asphyxia. Its lungs were

covered with ecchymoses, and the bronchiæ filled with foamy sputa.

A second rabbit, carefully chosen and pure white in color, was experimented upon; on this animal MM. Marcus and Wiet stretched both pneumogastrics, operating on the central end and carefully avoiding any implication of the sympathetics. Immediately after the operation they observed a considerable congestion of the two ears, which was followed, a few minutes later, by a not less-marked contraction of the vessels. This anæmia was of short duration, and gave place to an intense vaso-dilatation that existed up to the time of making their report, and a very well-marked double myosis. The next day the animal commenced to have difficulty in breathing, and this symptom became still more prominent and led to the presumption that the rabbit would ultimately die asphyxiated. The analysis of the urine showed nothing abnormal the first day after the operation, but on the second day it revealed the presence of traces of sugar, well shown by Fehling's test and that of the subnitrate of bismuth.

The authors also stretched the two vagi in another rabbit to ascertain whether the operation would not produce glycosuria. This, indeed, was the fact, as the experimenters easily demonstrated with the aid of the above-mentioned reagents.

These facts appear to show that stretching of the nerves produces an effect on the nerve centres, and they may throw some light on several physiological questions now the order of the day. The histological study of the medullas of the animals experimented upon will aid to complete the investigation, and may also be of some use in the solution of these problems.

MM. Marcus and Wiet also stretched the sympathetic and the vagus by pulling the peripheral portion, and their researches will form the subject of a future communication.

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CALCAREOUS DEPOSITS IN THE SPINAL ARACHNOID.—Chvostek, *Wiener Med. Presse*, Nos. 51 and 52, 1880, and 13 and 15, 1881 (abstr. in *Centralbl. f. d. Med. Wissensch.*, No. 27), reports a series of cases in which, with the clinical symptoms of a spinal affection,—severe neuralgic pains, increased by attempts at movement of the rigidly held lumbar and dorsal vertebræ, the ascending extension of the process from the lumbar to the dorsal spine, the late and insignificant involvement of the motor nerves, the advanced age of the patients, the long duration of the process, and,